

**Message from the State Superintendent of Education**

Terri Phillips volunteers three days a week at High Hills Elementary School, donating over 600 hours of service to the school. Ms. Phillips helps to promote the book fair, assists with fundraisers, hosts Accelerated Reader parties, and volunteers in the classroom.

For over the past 15 years, International Paper has donated tens of thousands of dollars to Webber Elementary School. The company's donations have helped to provide greater technological opportunities for the students, as well as, to create a pond, weather station and butterfly garden.

Emmaline Porter, an 84 year-old retired teacher, worked with students at Concord Elementary School for 45 hours last school year. Not only did she purchase books for the 18 students she assisted, she also made innovative materials to enhance their sessions.

About a year ago, Charles Heffner adopted High Hills Elementary School's aquarium as his project. He devotes more than three hours per week toward the aquarium's upkeep and seeks resources from area business to maintain both the aquarium and school's outdoor pond. Heffner's wife was deployed to Iraq since he began volunteering. Even though he had the sole responsibility of their 14-month old son, he continued his work at High Hills.

These honorees were recognized recently by Palmetto Serves. To read more about this organization and these awards, visit:

<http://www.servicesc.org/documents/palmettoservesvolunteeraward.pdf>

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=687>

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**In this issue:**

**State plan to ensure highly qualified teachers receives federal praise**

South Carolina has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of a handful of states to satisfy all criteria for ensuring that all public elementary and secondary school students are taught by highly qualified teachers. To read the details, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=688>

### **High school seniors raise ACT scores for a third consecutive year**

High school seniors improved South Carolina's average score on the ACT college entrance exam for a third straight year even as the number of test-takers continued to grow, the testing company reported last week. For more information, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=683>

### **Central High School physics teacher receives Disney award**

Dr. Patrick Welsh, a physics teacher at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, has received the prestigious 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Recognized from among 75,000 teachers nationwide, the Chesterfield County educator was honored for his exceptional creativity, innovative teaching style, and ability to inspire students. To read more, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=682>

### **Tenenbaum Award honors three principals**

Three principals – one each from South Carolina's Lowcountry, Midlands and Upstate – have been honored for outstanding performance in a training program that gives educators the kinds of skills used for success by top business executives. For the details, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=681>

### **Class of 2006 earns scholarships worth \$613 million**

South Carolina's graduating high school seniors in the Class of 2006 won \$613 million in college scholarships. That's the highest total since the state first began tracking the information five years ago. For more information, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=680>

### **South Carolina awards grants targeting truancy, dropout prevention**

The State Department of Education has awarded \$350,000 to school districts, community agencies and non-profit organizations to implement truancy and dropout prevention programs over the next year. The details are available at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=679>

### **Principal Induction Program accepting applications for fall institute**

The State Department of Education's Principal Induction Program focuses on individual and team organizational development. A requirement for newly appointed principals, the program provides training in leadership and management skills essential to success in the principalship. Sponsored by the Office of School Leadership, the program's fall institute will be held September 24-28 at the Mandren Center at Clemson University. Registration deadline is September 11. For program inquiries, contact Brenda Boykin ([bboykin@ed.sc.gov](mailto:bboykin@ed.sc.gov)) at 803-734-8561 or Jacquelyn FrostBurnett, ([jfrostbu@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfrostbu@ed.sc.gov)) at 803-734-3263. For logistics questions, contact Beverly Brosnan ([brosna@clemson.edu](mailto:brosna@clemson.edu)) at 864-656-4444.

### **Science Academic Standards Support Guide now available**

The South Carolina Science Academic Standards Support Guide is now available on-line. Developed in cooperation with South Carolina educators, this publication is a helpful resource for educators trying to implement standards-based science instruction. To view the document, visit:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/science/sd.html>

### **State Fair accepting applications for student art exhibition**

The South Carolina State Fair is accepting entry registrations during August for the Student Art Exhibition planned for this year's fair, October 11-22. Each exhibitor is limited to one piece of artwork. Rules, entry instructions, and registration information is available at:

<http://www.scstatefair.org/competitive-exhibits/art/student-art/index.php>

### **Walk to School Day is October 4**

International Walk to School Day is a global event where children, adults, schools, and communities come together to raise awareness about walking issues. It is an excellent way to promote physical activity, teach traffic safety skills, and identify and implement steps toward safer communities for walking and bicycling. For information about Walk to School Day in South Carolina, including free materials for participating schools, contact Amy Splittgerber or visit:

<http://www.scwalktoschool.org>

### **Grant writing workshop planned**

The last of four identical sessions of the State Department of Education's grant writing workshop series, "From Reading the Guidelines to Submitting the Proposal," will be held September 20-22 . The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m., September 8. For additional information, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2006GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>

### **Association for Childhood Education International honors teachers**

The Association for Childhood Education International is preparing for its annual celebration of the Week of the Classroom Teacher and World Teachers' Day. These celebrations acknowledge the contributions teachers make to education and will take place October 1-7. For details, go to:

<http://www.acei.org/wcthp.htm>

### **School Boards Association sponsors awards**

The South Carolina School Boards Association is seeking nominations for its 2006 Legislative Advocacy Program of the Year award. To be eligible, programs must have operated for the most recent legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly. The award will be presented at the organization's conference December 1-3 on Hilton Head, and the deadline for application is September 30. For additional information, contact Debbie Elmore ([delmore@scsba.state.sc.us](mailto:delmore@scsba.state.sc.us)) at 800-326-3679.

### **August honoree is broadcaster and documentary filmmaker**

Beryl Dakers built a 30-year career in broadcasting on a pioneering start that had her opening a series of doors previously locked to women and minorities. The Columbia native has been on the frontlines of the biggest news events in South Carolina. To read more about her, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

### **This issue's quotation**

"Obstacles are those things that we see when our eyes are off our goal." — Henry Ford

### **EdBlast! welcomes submissions**

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to [jfairnot@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfairnot@ed.sc.gov) or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

**Spread the word about EdBlast!**

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!